

## Today's News - Wednesday, October 15, 2014

- The Rebuild By Design winners "are optimistic about how their visions will be realized," even as their proposals "move from architects to bureaucrats."
- Florida cheers SPUR's plan for a more inclusive San Francisco, but ponders: "Can the city and region muster the political will to put something like it into action?"
- Hawthorne heads to Florida (the state) to see if Calatrava's new building for Florida Polytechnic University will "help repair the architect's troubled reputation": the result is "more about damage control than image overhaul," but it's "at least a step back toward the top."
- Zohn forgets her aching feet once she gets to Gehry's Fondation Louis Vuitton building in Paris: it "must surely be one of the most soaring, extravagant buildings in the world - there's no art that could possibly compete with it" (and candid comments from a very frank Frank).
- Giovannini talks to Gehry about his Fondation LV re: how his design process influenced the result: "We had this sort of chaotic dance going on and we just let the stairs and stuff happen."
- Jacobs cheers the "architectural extravagance" of MVRDV's Rotterdam MarketHall, "the rare work of audacious architecture that doesn't cater to obscene wealth," but "is actually designed for the most down-to-earth uses: daily life."
- Rybczynski ruminates on how the Harvard Business School campus has built its brand over the years: The problem with the architects who tried fitting in by sticking out is that "it tends to produce one-liners. All the building has to say is, 'That was then, this is now.'"
- Glancey explores the "cluster of gigantic stone termites' nest, a colossal vegetable patch, a gingerbread house baked by the wickedest witch of all" that is Gaudí's La Sagrada Família.
- The Corning Museum of Glass's new wing by Thomas Phifer is "almost certain to be globally recognized as a light-gathering glass masterpiece itself."
- Candid conversations with five "women who practice architecture."
- Johnston and Marklee have been "quietly transforming L.A.'s architectural landscape," but their Menil Drawing Institute in Houston "will certainly push them into the spotlight they have tried to avoid."
- Profiles of young architects in Adelaide who "left bigger, established firms to kickstart their own design practices," and are "managing to carve out successful solo careers."
- A good reason to head Down Under at the end of the month: the Affirmative Architecture symposium in Brisbane will gather an array of international and Australian architects "committed to a social agenda and who have made significant contribution to the public realm."
- Eyefuls of the first Blueprint Awards in architecture and design (great presentation).
- Winners of the Mud House Design 2014 Competition hail from France, Senegal, and the U.S.
- A Canadian wins the Battery Chair Competition with "Fleur," which looks like a pale blue flower (and apparently very comfortable).
- BD announces a very long shortlist for the Architect of the Year Awards 2014.
- An international roster of six finalists to reimagine the banks of the Moscow River.

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Will Rebuild By Design be Realized? Millions in federal funds allocated for resiliency efforts...As this process plays-out, the proposals will certainly change as they move from design to development and from architects to bureaucrats. The winning New York City teams understand this but are optimistic about how their visions will be realized. -- Bjarke Ingels Group/BIG/Starr Whitehouse; PennDesign/OLIN; SCAPE; OMA [images] - The Architect's Newspaper

A Plan for a More Inclusive San Francisco: ...a new report by SPUR...provides a compelling diagnosis of the economic divides and gaps the region faces...goes beyond diagnosis to propose solutions for a more inclusive economic prosperity that would begin to bridge these growing divides...Just one question remains: Can the city and region muster the political will to put something like it into action? By Richard Florida - CityLab (formerly The Atlantic Cities)

Florida Polytechnic University: Will Santiago Calatrava's Innovation, Science and Technology building help repair the architect's troubled reputation? ...he was handed a blank slate...the final product...is the work of an architect actively trying to prove, or at least re-emphasize, his bona fides...The results in Florida, more about damage control than image overhaul, are at least a step back toward the top. By Christopher Hawthorne -- Alfonso Architects [images] - Architect Magazine

Frank Gehry: How Does He Do It? Fondation Louis Vuitton building in the Bois de Boulogne...must surely be one of the most soaring, extravagant buildings in the world...There's no way not to be wowed...it represents a refinement of everything he's been doing in a way that is unexpected...It's massive but elegant, complicated but iconic...there's no art that could possibly compete with this building... By Patricia Zohn [images] - Huffington Post

Fondation Louis Vuitton: Frank Gehry discusses the inception of his pavilion-like cultural center in Paris's Bois de Boulogne, and how his design process influenced the result..."we spent time getting the forms to dance together..."We had this sort of chaotic dance going on and we just let the stairs and stuff happen." By Joseph Giovannini [images] - Architect Magazine

In Praise Of Architectural Extravagance: MVRDV create the rare work of audacious architecture that doesn't cater to obscene wealth....Rotterdam MarketHall...is the kind of uncanny structure ones tweets without thinking. As surreal as it appears in photos, the building is actually designed for the most down-to-earth uses: daily life. By Karrie Jacobs [images] - Fast Company

Building the Brand: Over the years, the Harvard Business School campus has presented architects with a considerable challenge: How do you design for the future while respecting the past? Fitting in or sticking out? Too many architects aim only for the latter...The problem with this strategy is that it tends to produce one-liners: once you have experienced the contrast, there's nothing else. All the building has to say is, "That was then, this is now." By Witold Rybczynski -- McKim, Mead & White; William Rawn Associates; Moshe Safdie; Robert A.M. Stern; Philip Johnson; Kallmann, McKinnell & Wood; Goody Clancy [images] - Architect Magazine

Antonio Gaudí's La Sagrada Família: Genius or folly? Soaring above Barcelona...the strangest looking and possibly the most controversial place of worship ever built...Looking for all the world like a cluster of gigantic stone termites' nest, a colossal vegetable patch, a gingerbread house baked by the wickedest witch of all...has confounded architects, critics and historians...mind-bending building proves to be a tour-de-force of highly sophisticated mathematics and advanced structural engineering. By Jonathan Glancey -- Mark Burry; Jordi Faulí i Oller - BBC

A Glass Museum That Just Can't Contain Itself: Corning Museum of Glass...is again on the verge of exceeding itself as a glass showcase...adding another wing...almost certain to be globally recognized as a light-gathering glass masterpiece itself. -- Thomas Phifer and Partners; Wallace K. Harrison (1951); Gunnar Birkerts (1980); Smith-Miller and Hawkinson (2001) - New York Times

Voices from Venice: Conversations at the 2014 Architecture Biennale with Women who Practice Architecture: ...a series of one-on-one video interviews conducted by Harvard GSD graduate Caroline James, with architects Caroline Bos, Louise Braverman, Odile Decq, Yasmin Shariff, and Benedetta Tagliabue...inspiration for this project was the...the Petition to the Pritzker Architecture Prize for recognition of Denise Scott Brown's work in Robert Venturi's 1991 prize. - Women In Design

The Shape Shifters: Sharon Johnston and Mark Lee are quietly transforming L.A.'s architectural landscape...have unassumingly become the architects of choice for L.A.'s creative class...thoughtful, deliberate, and intent on solving architectural riddles in an elegant and comfortable way...Menil Drawing Institute in Houston...will certainly push Johnston Marklee into the spotlight they have tried to avoid. - W Magazine

Adelaide's young architects set own house rules: A tough economic climate hasn't deterred some of Adelaide's visionary young architects from chasing their career dreams...left bigger, established firms to kickstart their own design practices...managing to carve out successful solo careers. -- Greg Bond/Atelier Bond; Sam Hosking/Luke Willis/Hosking Willis Architecture; Julian Rutt/Lumen Studio- The Advertiser (Australia)

Architecture that gives a damn: The Affirmative Architecture symposium comes to Brisbane...drawing together international and Australian architects committed to a social agenda and who have made significant contribution to the public realm. October 31 - November 1 - ArchitectureAU (Australia)

Blueprint Awards 2014 - the winners: ...recognised the best projects and products in architecture and design across six categories. -- Rogers Stirk Harbour + Partners; Chloe Meineck; Terry Farrell; Haworth Tomkins; Piercy&Company; dRMM Architects; One Plus Partnership; Adam Nathaniel Furman [links to images, info]- DesignCurial / Blueprint Magazine (UK)

Winners of the Mud House Design 2014 Competition (Reinventing the African Mud Hut Together) -- M.A.M.O.T.H (France); Atelier Koe (Senegal); Jason Orbe-Smith (U.S.) [images]- Nka Foundation

After Contest, One Chair Is Left Standing: The Battery Conservancy chose the powder-coated steel chair, by Andrew Jones Design...chair competition...narrowed 679 entries from 15 countries down to 50 entries, then to five and, now, one...called Fleur...looks like a pale blue flower...designer from Toronto, said he developed the idea after visiting the Battery. [images]- New York Times

Architect of the Year Awards 2014: Shortlists announced: AYA winners due to be named on December 2- BD/Building Design (UK)

The Moscow River: six finalists: Taking part in the second stage will be two Russian and four international consortiums with the participation of Russian companies. -- Burgos & Garrido Arquitectos Asociados/Citymakers; Turenscape; Archpolis DSK-1; Maxwan Architects + Urbanists/Atrium architectural studio; Meganom; Ostozhenka; SWA Group [images]- Architectural Council of Moscow / Archcouncil of Moscow

ANN Feature: Why the Starchitect Debate isn't "Stupid": Starchitecture is just a symptom of a much bigger problem in the profession. By Michael J. Crosbie- ArchNewsNow



-- Richard Meier & Partners: Few architects have retained such an uncompromising style throughout a more than five-decade-long practice. By Jakob Harry Hybel  
-- 7 Imaginative Pavilions -- Foster & Partners; Diller + Scofidio + Renfro; Ai Weiwei; SANAA; Atelier Peter Zumthor; Sverre Fehn; Kazuyo Sejima & Associates

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